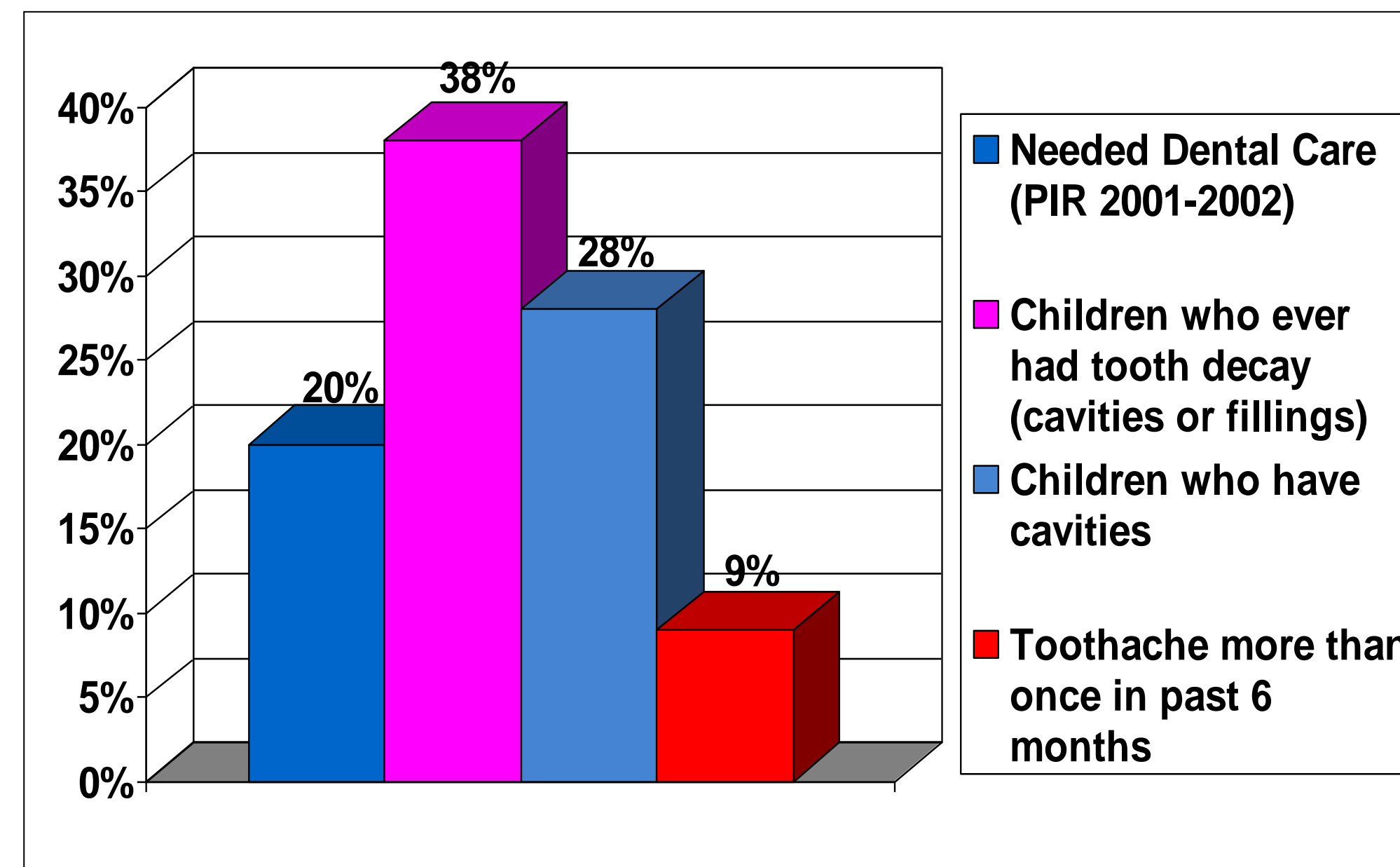


Community Partnership to Improve Children's Oral Health

H. Amini and B. Noel

BACKGROUND

- Despite overall improvement in the oral health of the nation, many children still suffer from dental diseases that cause pain and distress.
- One sub-group at risk for oral disease and lack of access to dental care are Head Start Children.
- As part of the Head Start program, it is mandated that each child receive an oral screening during enrollment (90 days).
- However, these programs are having difficulty finding dentists who would provide care for Head Start children.
- Dentists aren't available particularly those who accept Medicaid, see young children and long waiting time to get appointment.
- Problems getting off of work, finding childcare, transportation.



Ohio Dept. of Health, 2,555 Head Start Children in 50 centers

OBJECTIVES

- To address the oral screening needs of Head Start children through community-university partnership
- To incorporate service learning in dental education

PARTNERSHIP

- College of Dentistry's faculty, staff, and dental students
- Columbus Dental Society
- Head Start communities

EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

- Didactic and clinical training:
 - Dental screening
 - Fluoride varnish application
 - Behavior management of children
 - Clinical practice on student colleagues
- Dental supplies donated by Columbus Dental Society

OUTCOMES

Activity	Number
Children Screened	900
Fluoride Varnish Applied	600
Dental Student Trained	107

